



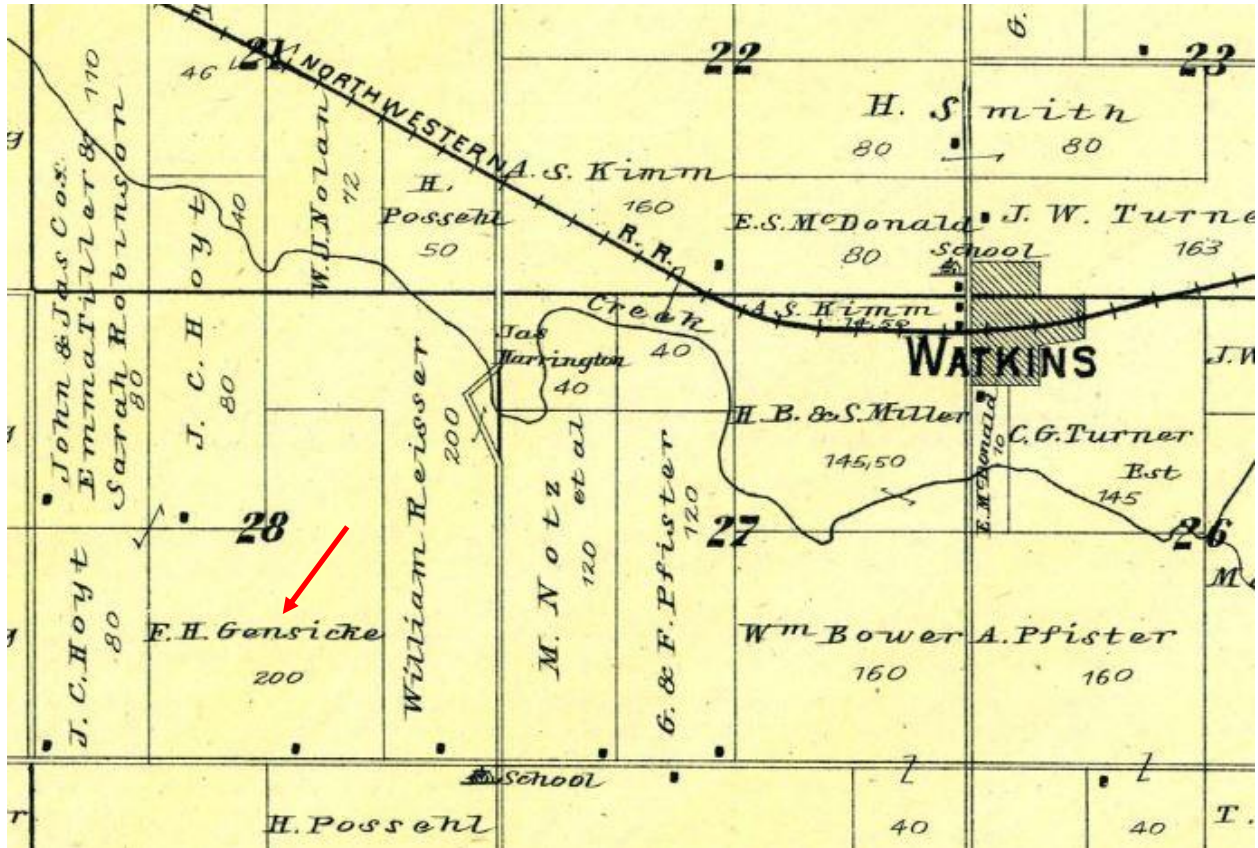
My Story by Esther Gensicke Wasson

Esther Gensicke married Duncan Wasson in 1921. She wrote this biography that focused on her early years leading up to her marriage to Duncan. These are her words – I cleaned up a few minor typos, and illustrated it with photos and maps and added some related information.

My life began on a winter's day when this century had hardly begun on February 14th, 1900. My mother, Hannah Gensicke, was attended by a midwife on our family farm near the little town of Watkins, a few miles west of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Esther's parents, Hannah and Friedrich Heinrich Gensicke a.k.a. Frederick H. Gensicke



Esther was born on the F.H. Gensicke farm west of Watkins in section 28 of St. Clair Township, Benton County, Iowa.



The old Gensicke farmhouse near Watkins where Esther was born has been expanded and updated in the years since the Gensickes lived there.



The old Gensicke farmhouse; the barn no longer stands



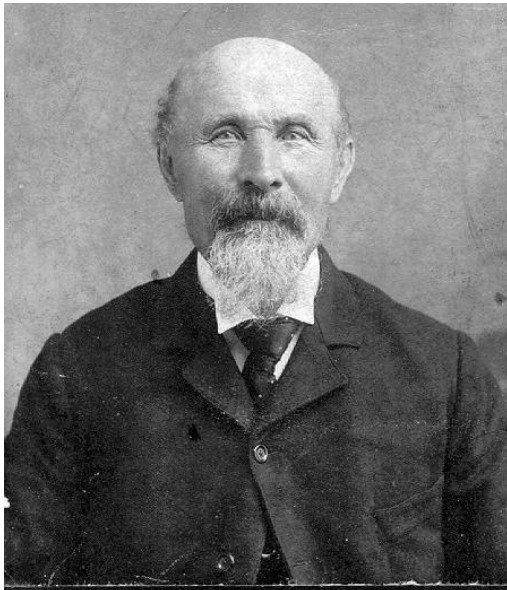
The old Gensicke farmhouse

My older sisters and brothers – Edna, Henry, Caroline, and Eldred – were away at the nearby country school, and during the day that I arrived were told that a real live Valentine had been sent to their home. So, Father Gensicke named me Esther Elizabeth Valentina Gensicke to commemorate my unique time of birth.



Esther in her christening gown. Esther was baptized at St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, a German Lutheran church in section 32 of St. Clair Township, Benton County. Published church records from 1866-1898 include the births and baptisms of her four older siblings and the death of her grandmother Elisabeth Gensicke. The church no longer stands.

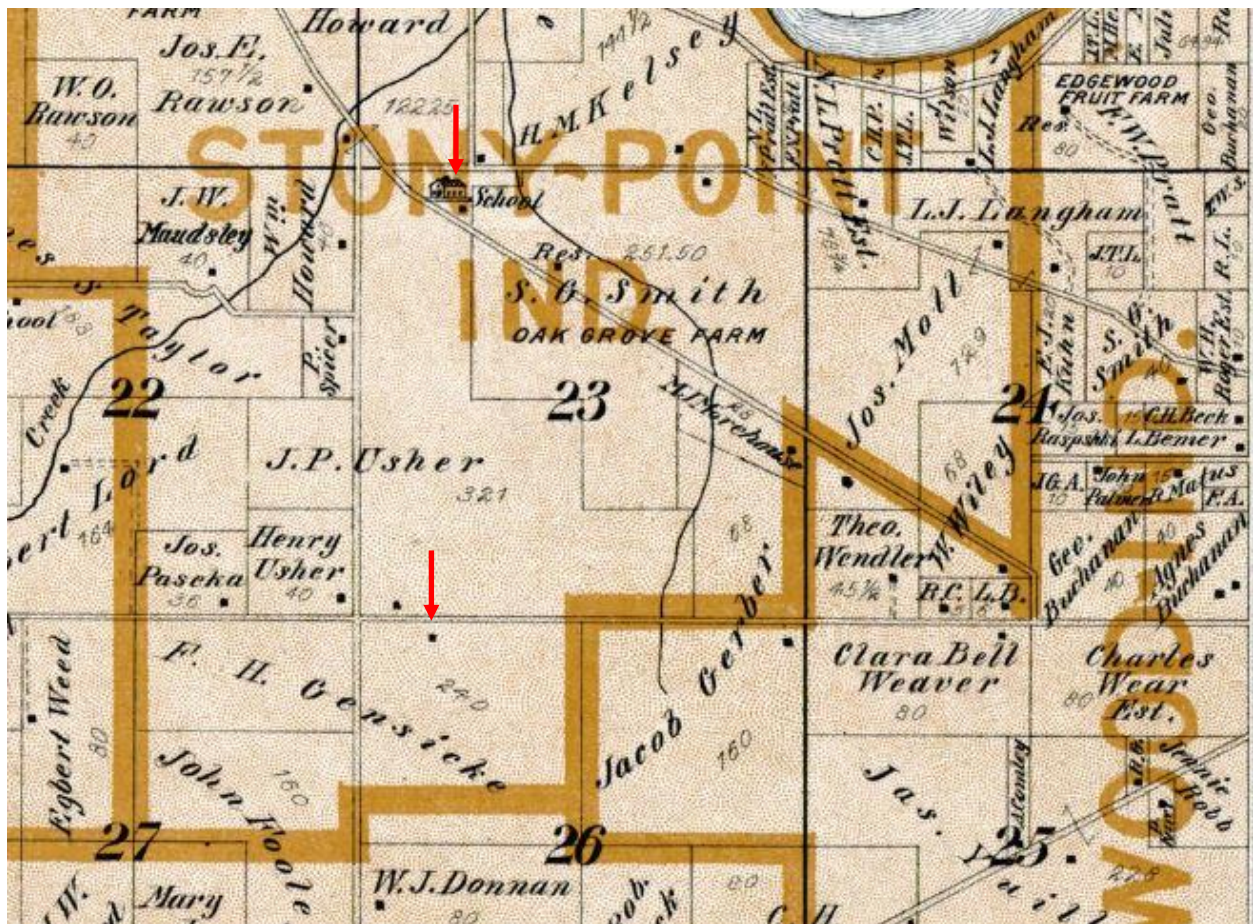
One of my first memories is of my grandfather, who, as was the custom of those days, lived with the family of his son. I had an inordinate craving for candy at this stage of my life, and I found out early that my grandfather always kept a supply of old-fashioned sugar candy of many colors and flavors, which is no longer to be seen in the stores. He would become very impatient of my insistence to be supplied, and would finally, angrily, storm from the room.



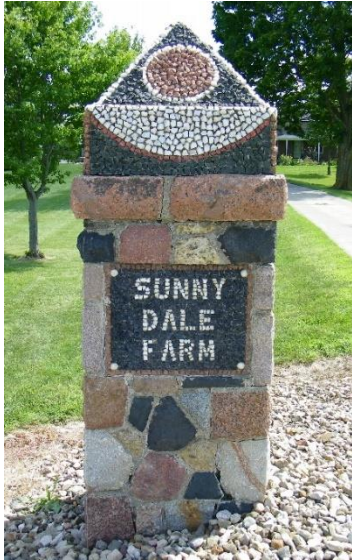
Esther's grandfather, Christian Gensicke (left); Christian's home at 524 7th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids (right)

Comment: Widower Christian lived with his son's family in 1900, but in 1901 he left for Germany, his second return to his native country since emigrating from there to the United States in 1853. He stayed there for more than a year before returning and moving back in with the family. But by 1907, Christian had purchased a small house at 524 7th Ave. SW in Cedar Rapids. He lived there until he died in 1910.

My father bought a farm in 1903 that was located near the west side of Cedar Rapids. In March of that year, we moved all our household goods in a lumber wagon, and we followed in a two-seated surrey, the standard conveyance of that time. It took us all day to cover the 20 miles over the muddy roads of an Iowa springtime. I was in the midst of a bout of whooping cough, with all the resultant symptoms and inconveniences associated with the disease. Our arrival to a cold, empty and dirty house was soon remedied by my parents' talent for making a house a home.



The Gensickes bought a farm in sections 26 and 27 of Clinton Township, just west of Cedar Rapids in 1903. The Stony Point School is in the upper left corner of section 23.



The farm, on E Avenue NW, was named Sunny Dale Farm. Sunny Dale Farm in winter (right).



Sunny Dale Farm in 1993 (right)



Sunny Dale Farm, 2010

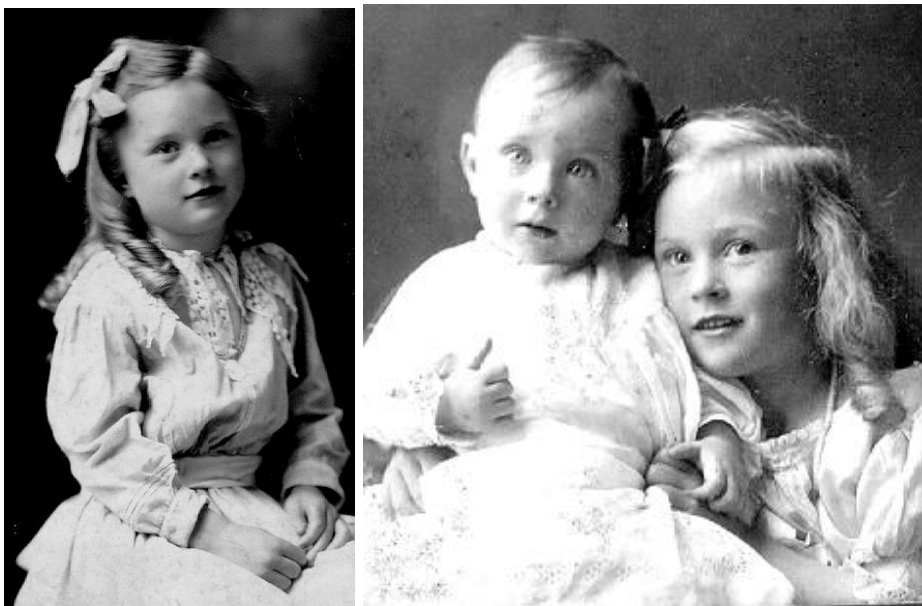


Sunny Dale Farm, 2010. Son Henry Gensicke and his wife Lillian took over the farm and raised their family there. Their son Robert established Sunny Dale Dairy, which he and his wife operated until a fire destroyed their dairy barn in 1955.



Sisters Carolyn and Esther

My youngest brother, Everett, was born on this farm, the sixth and last child of our family. His birth was the only arrival to be attended by a doctor, the rest of us being assisted into this world by a midwife. The midwife was usually a near neighbor or friend of the family. I remember being completely surprised to have a new brother, unlike modern children who seem to know and plan for the arrival of their brothers or sisters, for in those days it was not a matter of family conversation.



Esther at five years (left); Esther and her brother Everett (right)

Our new farm was covered with scattered granite stones, and my father had to locate, blast and collect them in huge piles. They were later bought and used for many decorative and useful projects – among them, a fountain in Greene Square, which some of you may remember, a house to be built many years later as my parents' retirement home on Wilson Avenue S.W., and many other local building projects.



Fountain at Greene Square in 1910, built with granite stones from the Sunny Dale Farm

My school days started at Stony Point, which still stands on Hwy 94 between Cedar Rapids and Covington. On winter mornings, I was bundled in long underwear, leggings and overshoes, and I trudged on the mile-and-a-half distance to school over snow banks, breathless from the cold and trying to match the longer steps of my older brothers and sisters. It was a delightful walk in the spring, for on the way we had to go through a woods and here I picked Johnny Jump-ups, Dutchman's Breeches, and Sweet Williams. I can still recall my pleasure at their discovery. The yard at Stony Point was sheltered by many hickory and oak trees. This center of my early learning also held many happy memories playing with my classmates.



Johnny Jump Ups (left); Dutchman's Breeches (center); Sweet Williams (right)



The Stony Point School in 1993

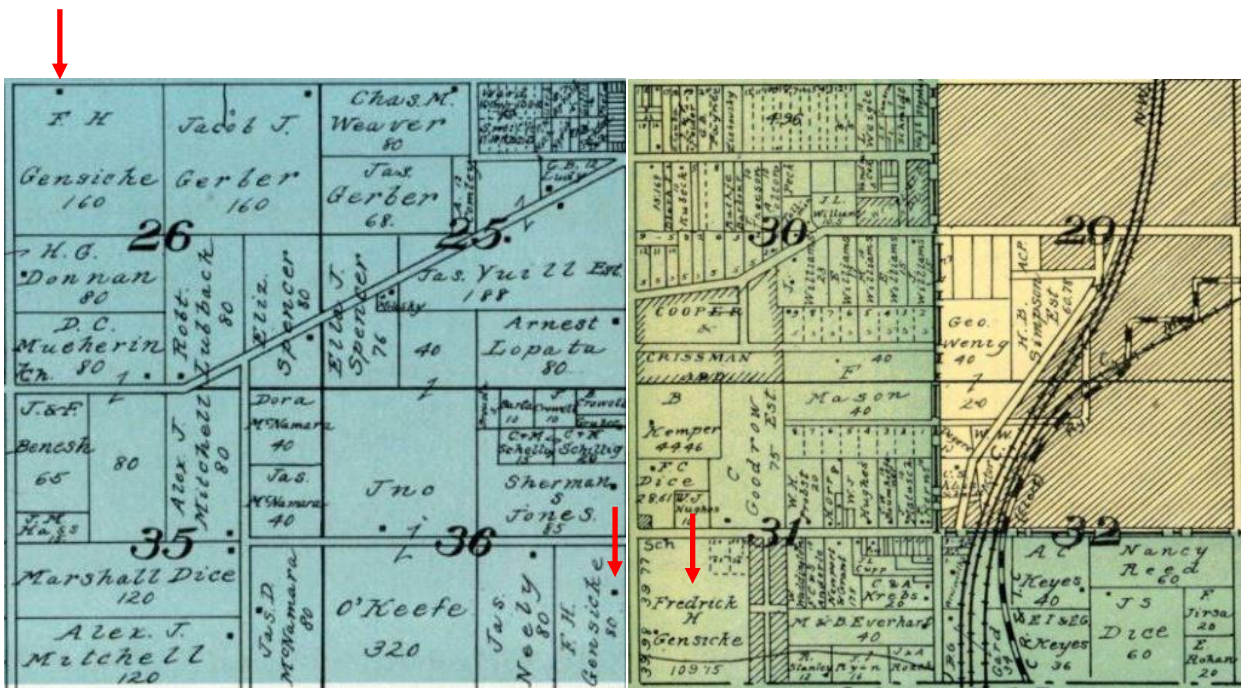
Older boys were needed at home to help plant and harvest the crops, and they attended school during the winter. Many of the boys were older than the teacher. To a five-year-old they seemed like grown men! I remember when some of these boys had broken the rules, which rules I was too young to understand. These big boys were required to bend over the teacher's desk, and she applied a strap to their backsides! I was both impressed and scared.

I also recall that when my older brothers and sisters picked corn by hand that prairie chickens were then so common that they would catch them and bring them in on top of their loads of corn. Those fields and most of that farm are now part of what is now known as Cedar Hills.

We lived on this farm until 1908, for in the meantime, my father had bought a farm on Edgewood Road on the way to Beverly. Beverly was a small settlement at that time. The trains would stop there for water and to a child it seemed like a lot of activity, for many trains passed through every day.



The C&NW train depot at Beverly



The Gensickes bought a farm on Edgewood Road in the southeast corner of section 36, Clinton Township (blue), and the southwest corner of section 31, Rapids Township (green), in Linn County on the west side of Cedar Rapids. Part of Sunny Dale Farm can be seen in the northwest corner of section 26 of Clinton Township.



Esther's father and brother Eldred plowing the Edgewood Road Farm, with the house, barns and outbuildings in the background, as seen from 23rd (Wilson) Avenue



The Gensicke home from 1908 to 1918 on Edgewood Road at the Edgewood Road farm

In 1908 my oldest sister, Edna, left home to be married to Henry Stark, and settled on a farm west of Cedar Rapids on the Atkins Road. Henry and Carolyn were left on the original farm to work the land, and we pooled the machinery between both farms. With my older brother Eldred and younger brother Everett, I attended the Edgewood No. 2 School at the north corner of the land.



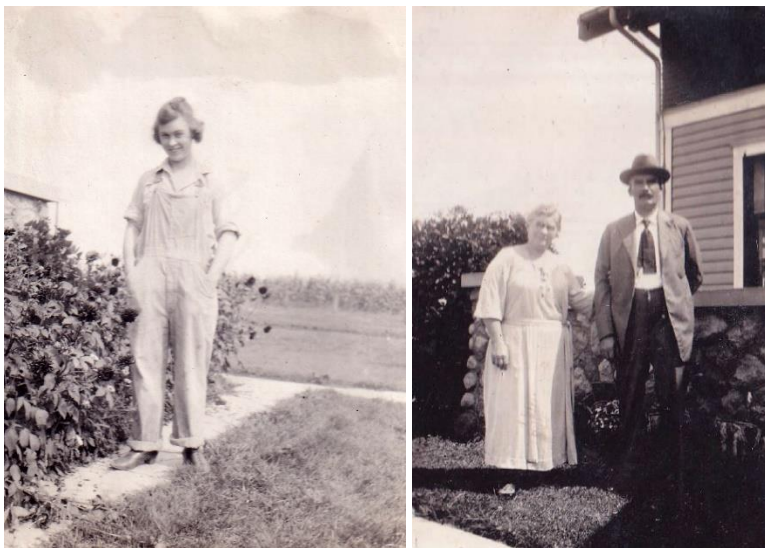
Esther's sister Edna (left); C. Henry Stark; brother Henry



Esther's sister Carolyn (left) and brothers Eldred and Everett



In 1917, the Gensickes built their “retirement residence” on 23rd Avenue, today’s Wilson Avenue, on land that was part of the Edgewood Road Farm. The granite stones on the front of the house came from Sunny Dale Farm. Some of their farmland can be seen in the background.



Esther (left) and her parents (right) at the 23rd (Wilson) Avenue house



The home more recently. The rest of the old Edgewood Road Farm was developed into a residential neighborhood, Van Buren Park, businesses and the Westdale Shopping Mall.



By 1928, Frederick and Hannah Gensicke were living with their son Everett at this house on C Street SW, known as the Bear Farm. Today, this is the site of Tanager Place, a children's human services agency.



Hannah and Frederick Gensicke (seated) and their six children, Carrie, Esther, Edna, Everett, Eldred and Henry (standing, from left to right), likely from an August 1929 Gensicke family reunion picnic at Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Across the road from Edgewood School, on the corner of the farm, there was a small grove of trees, and here in the spring and summer wandering Gypsies would camp. They would live off the land, tell fortunes, trade horses and then move on. I was scared of them, slept poorly while they were there and breathed easier when they left. Eighty acres of this farm, including the once Gypsy camping ground, is now the Westdale Shopping Mall. I can imagine my parents' astonishment if they could see what has become of their farm. The Penney store is built over what was my father's productive apple orchard. From it we picked wagon loads of apples to store for our winter's supply of fruit.



The JCPenney store at Westdale Mall covers the area of the Gensickes' Edgewood Road Farm where their apple orchard once stood.



The Gensickes' Edgewood Road Farm barn in 1993



Today, a Texas Roadhouse restaurant serves steaks where the Gensickes' barn once stood.

Cedar Rapids grew from a small town of about thirty thousand to something over a hundred thousand during my lifetime, to become the busiest and second largest city in Iowa. We would go to town by horse and buggy loaded down with eggs and butter from our farm to exchange for groceries. The store where we traded was at the corner of 1st Ave. and 1st St. where the old post office now stands. Here we would tie our horse to one of the many hitching posts while we traded and shopped. At that time, we could stay all day if we wished with no parking fee! In the winter we went by bobsled and sleigh to town. We also had a one-horse cutter which glided over the snow so smoothly.

My parents were members of the German Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. I recall Christmas Eves when we were bundled into a straw filled bobsled, covered with blankets, and to the sound of sleigh bells, riding to church over Rockford Road. There we would speak our pieces in German and await our reward. A large grocery sack filled with candy, nuts, an apple and an orange were rare treats for a country girl.



Esther's church confirmation class, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1912



Esther's confirmation certificate, in German

At that time, I learned to harness and hitch up our bay-colored family driving horse to drive to town in our one-seated buggy for piano lessons. Or I could also saddle him and ride the countryside to visit neighbors. It was great fun for a youngster on a farm in those days!

My memories of the Edgewood School include our recess and noon hour activities, when we would play baseball, drop the handkerchief, tag, and pump-pump-pullaway. I always looked forward to Friday, because from the afternoon recess until closing time we would have a spell down, great fun to my young mind. There was an old organ which our teacher would play for opening exercises, and we sang to its accompaniment after opening with *The Lord's Prayer*. No one at this stage of my life ever questioned a prayer at school. We sang old favorites, *Flow Gently Sweet Afton*, *Juanita*, *Columbia the Gem of the Ocean*, *My Old Kentucky Home*, and *Comin' Thru the Rye*. When it was time for studies, we practiced writing with pen and ink doing pages of push pulls and ovals, for in those days before typewriters good penmanship was important.

All eight grades were in one room, and a teacher was expected to teach beginners to read, and up to and including eighth graders preparing to pass the examination for high school. The teacher was also the janitor who was expected to have the wood fire started and the school warmed by the time the children arrived, and to sweep and clean after the school was dismissed for the day.

Our teachers were usually young girls from Cedar Rapids, just out of high school themselves. They would arrive by way of the Iowa City interurban. There was a small three-sided shack on Wilson Ave. across the railroad tracks where it cost five cents for a trip to and from Cedar Rapids at that time. From there, the teacher had to walk another mile in all kinds of weather before beginning her day at school.



The Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway (CRANDIC) began operating its interurban trains in 1903. Esther's future husband, Duncan Wasson, worked as a CRANDIC brakeman in 1918.

On cold winter days if there was a blizzard, and the wind blew hard across the bare farmland in those days, it was often too stormy for the teacher to walk to the interurban, and she would stay overnight at our house. I remember being happy and impressed at being able to keep someone as important as the teacher at our house.

Most of the teachers were serious minded young women devoted to the children, and I remember them with gratitude and admiration. It took stamina and strength of character to be a teacher in a one-room country school! From them we learned to work and study, the bare essentials, so that when and if we went on to high school, we could hold our own with the children who had a much better foundation.

Valentine's Day at Edgewood No. 2 was a big day for me. Our teacher provided a large decorated box, in which at the beginning of the day we placed our valentines for our classmates. We had to wait until the afternoon recess before the valentines could be given out. Some were elaborate "boughten" ones, some homemade, and some the so-called funny ones to which we never signed our names as they were usually slyly insulting to the recipient. I usually received more than my share of valentines and sometimes real red carnations from a classmate whose father owned the local greenhouse. This was a real thrill for me.

I remember a bookcase in the back of our one-room school filled with very old books which must have been there since the school was first occupied. When our lessons had been prepared, we could ask permission to go to the so-called library, select a book and return with it to our seat. I remember reading every one of these books many times over. I never knew of a new book being added.

Cedar Rapids had two main newspapers, the Gazette and the Republican. We were Gazette subscribers for as long as I can remember. There was also a German newspaper published by the Gundling family and a Czech paper for the many people of Czech descent who helped build Cedar Rapids.

Some of the early business establishments I remember were the Rudolph's Grocery Store where we often traded, and next to it, Haman's Drug Store. Kroll's Shoe Store, Larimer's Hardware and Brems Bakery were on the east side of 1st St. as well as some of the old-time saloons. First Ave. was Main Street. The Roosevelt Hotel now stands where a general store known as the "Fair Store" once stood. This store sold dry goods as well as groceries.

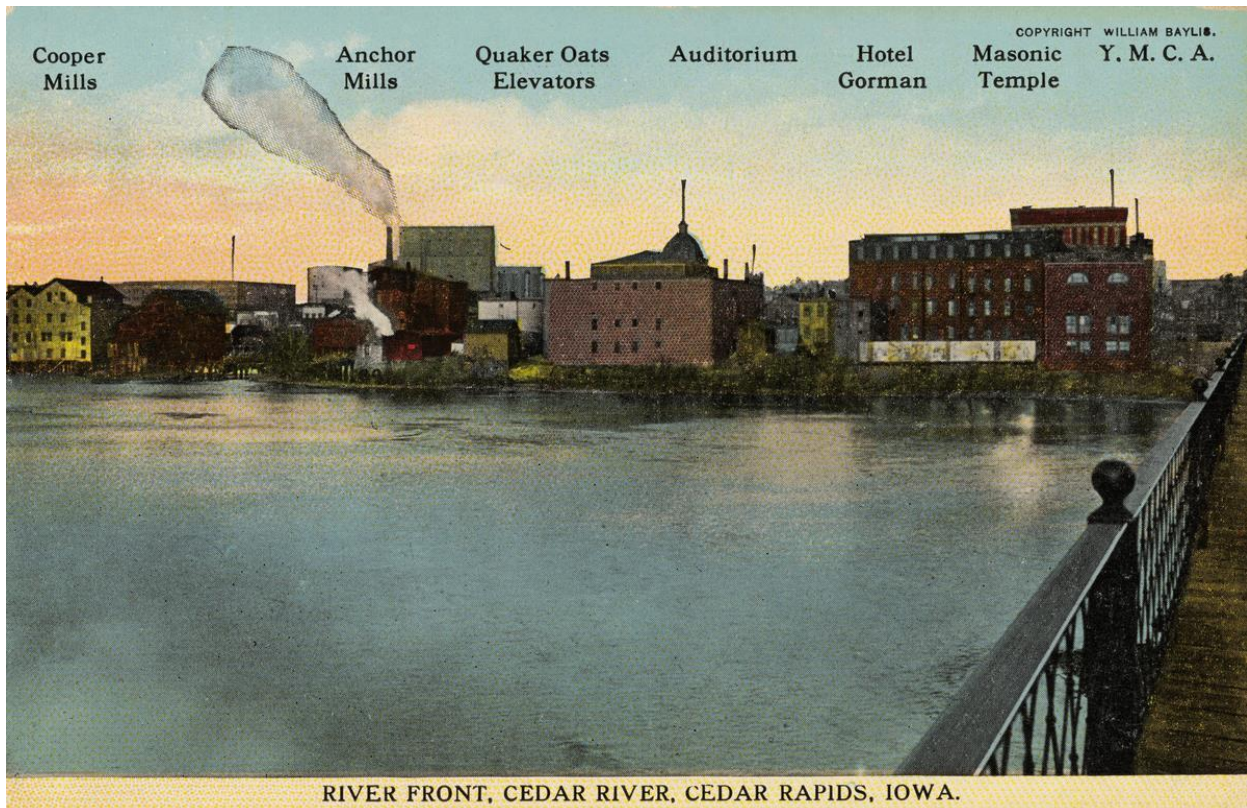


East side of 1st Street, downtown Cedar Rapids. The white vertical sign at the street corner center left is for the Kroll's Shoe Store that Esther mentioned. The hardware store is a few doors to the right. Further to the right are some saloons.



Horse-drawn buggies and cars share 2nd Avenue, downtown Cedar Rapids

My father raised wheat which we hauled to Cooper's Mill on the east end of the F Ave. bridge. We exchanged the wheat for flour, driving over a planked platform, built over the river to the mill. Mr. Cooper, a pleasant, genial man, would load a sack of flour into our horse-drawn buggy.



The Gensickes hauled their wheat across the wood-planked F Avenue Bridge over the Cedar River on their way to Cooper's Mill, 1910 postcard

At the age of 12, I took the exams required by the county to enter high school in Cedar Rapids. I failed the music and grammar portions of the exam and had to retake the exam before being considered ready to make this big step. I was the first in our family to enter high school, and it was a big change for this country girl to attend the city high school, old Washington High.



Washington High School

Comment: This building replaced the original Washington School in Cedar Rapids in 1891. Artist Grant Wood graduated from Washington High School in 1910, six years before Esther. Orville Wright, who with his brother Wilbur invented the airplane, attended the original Washington School in 1880 when his family lived in Cedar Rapids for a short time.

The contrast in size with what I had been used to, the three floors with many numbered rooms, made me afraid at first of getting lost. Besides, at twelve, I felt at an immense disadvantage to the other students. A couple years difference at that age count for much more than in later life.

I was shy and backward and felt very inferior until I was sixteen and in my senior year. By then I was well acquainted and drawn into the life of the school. Until that time, there was little to prevent me from concentrating on my studies, so I maintained an above 90 average. In those days the teachers graded meticulously, so not many earned that grade.

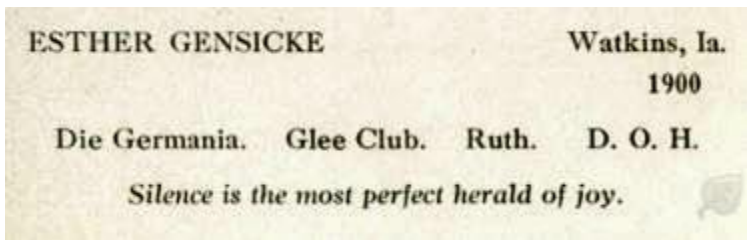
Old Washington High stood beside the 4th St. tracks and many trains passed by, while others switched right beside the school. Many times, our classes would be disrupted by their loud whistles and chugging. Our algebra room seemed right on the tracks, and when the trains made too much noise, our teacher had to stop and wait for them to pass through.

I remember some of the teachers who devoted their whole life to education. Carrie Wildey for Algebra, Rachel Witwer and Carolyn Soutter for English, Eva Byerly for Latin, and Marie Schmermund for German, and the never to be forgotten Abbie S. Abbott, who ruled old Wash Hi for many years with an iron hand. If some of the older boys would be missed from their classes, she would personally go to some of the known hang-outs and literally drag them out and back to school from the pool rooms, or even the old Majestic Theatre.



Iron-handed Washington High School principal Abbie S. Abbott (left). The Majestic Theatre was known as the top vaudeville house in Cedar Rapids in its heyday (right).

I started taking bookkeeping, but working with numbers held no attraction for me, and my new friends were taking what was called a normal course. This course at successful completion fitted one for teaching at graduation, and after a year's practice teaching in the C.R. schools, a possible future job. So, at the age of 16, I was a high school graduate and had earned a teacher's certificate, but the laws of Iowa stated that 18 was the minimum age. So, I did my required year of practice at the old Adams School, worked at Killian's Department Store, and as a sideline, raised chickens at my farm home. Finally, age 18 arrived; time moved slowly at that age.



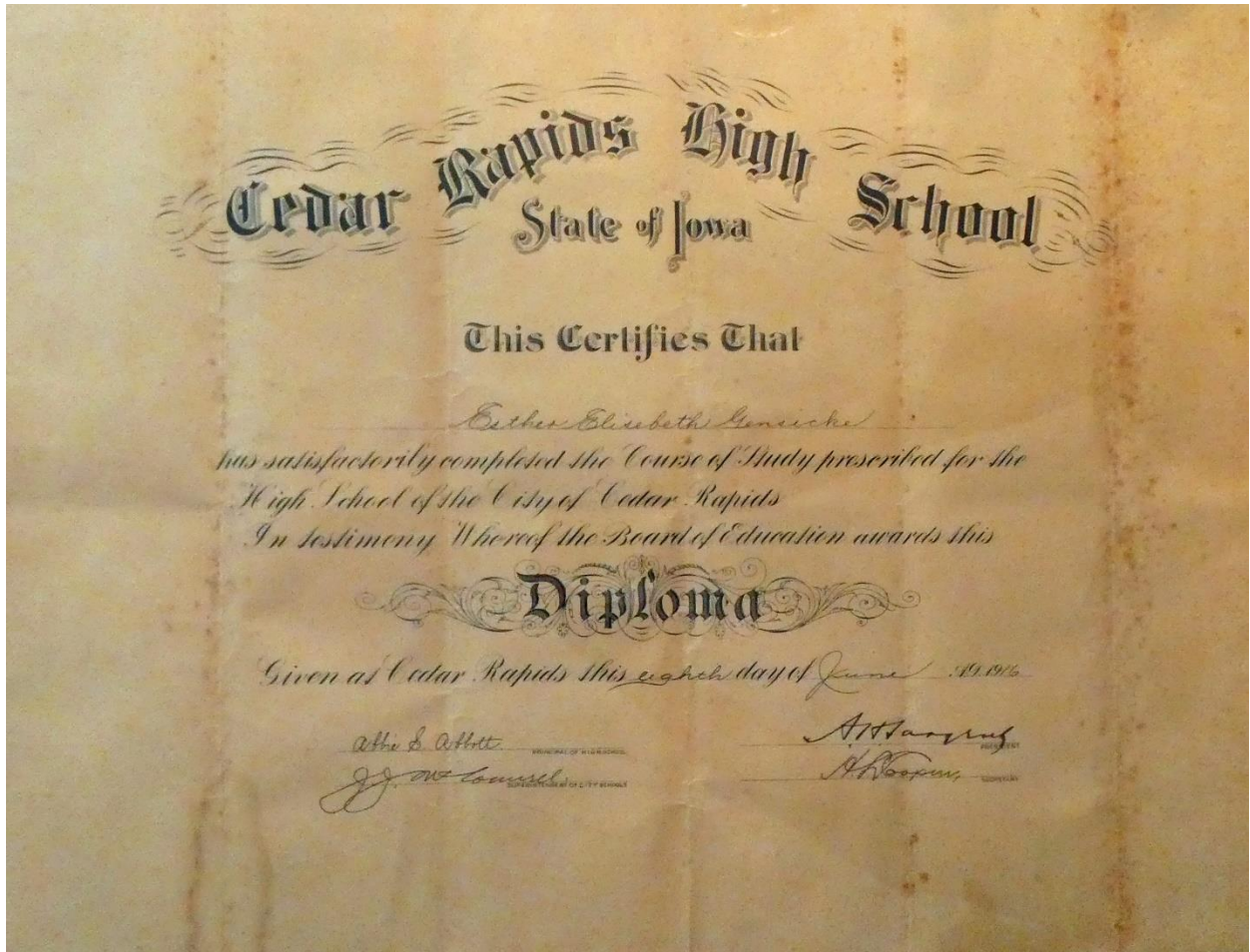
Esther's high school graduation photo at age 16 (left) and yearbook entry (right)



Esther was a member of Washington High School's Die Germania Club.



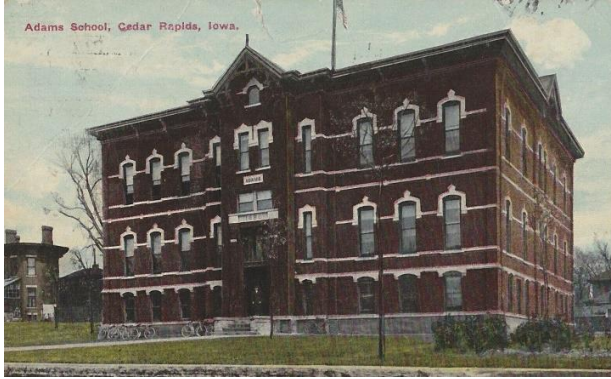
She was also a member of Washington High School's Glee Club.



Esther's Washington High School diploma, signed by Abbie S. Abbott



Esther at age 16



Adams School, where Esther put in her year of practice teaching (left); Killian's Department Store, where Esther worked following high school (right)

My first teaching experience was at the Edgewood School that I had attended a few years before, but by September I'd been accepted at the Polk School in C.R. Here I spent two years as a kindergarten assistant, and then had an assignment for 4th grade at Jackson School on 4th Ave. and 12th St. This time was a joy, for now I felt I had arrived as a grown-up.

Comment: Her obituary and other accounts said Esther taught 3rd grade at Jackson School, but a 1922 article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette referred to her 4th grade class.



Esther was a kindergarten assistant at Polk School for the 1918-1919 and 1919-1920 school years.



Esther taught 3rd or 4th grade at Jackson School starting in 1920. One of her colleagues at Jackson was art teacher and not-yet-famous artist Grant Wood.

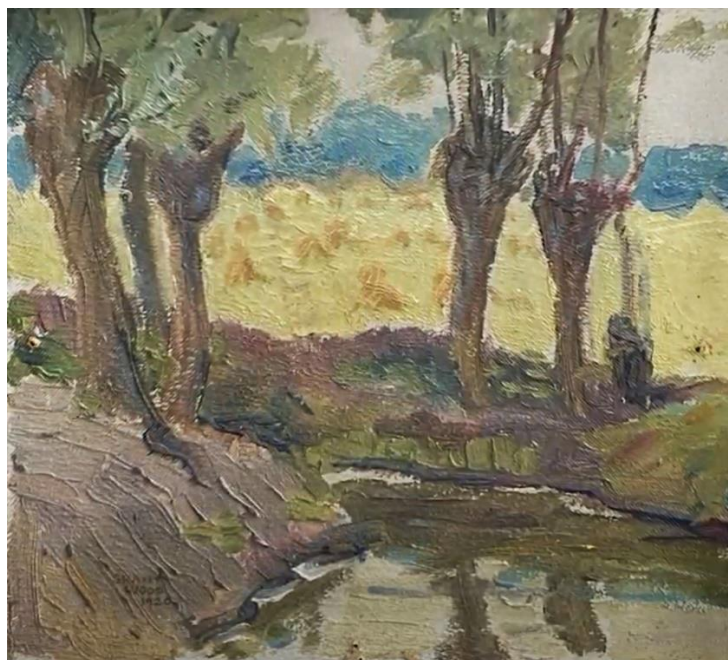
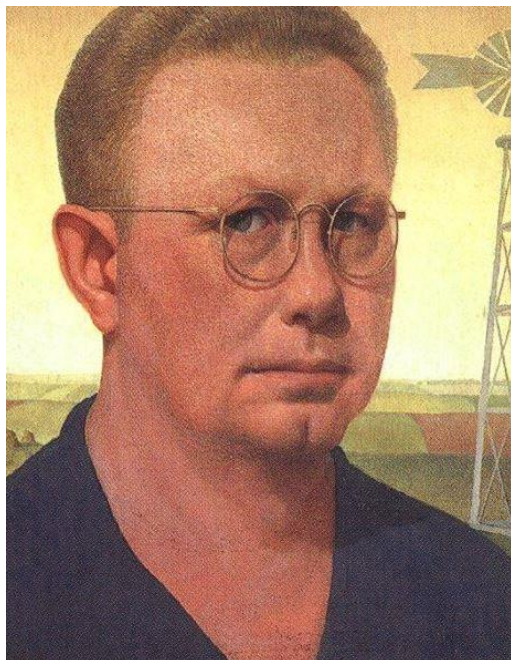
Comment: Former First Lady Mamie Doud Eisenhower attended kindergarten and first grade at Jackson School in 1903-1904. Classmates of hers included Robert Armstrong, who went on to head Armstrong's Department Store, and Margaret Douglas, who married Howard Hall and resided at Brucemore. Both Armstrong's, which closed in 1991, and Brucemore are Cedar Rapids institutions.

Across the hall from my classroom was the art room, presided over by a young man, Grant Wood, who taught art classes to the upper grades. Grant was helpful to me, for primary teachers were responsible for all that passed for art in their rooms. The teachers brought their noon lunches and all gathered together to eat them. It was the occasion to trade experiences and to get acquainted. Most of us brought sandwiches, but Grant's lunch consisted of a grapefruit as he explained he needed to watch his weight. When he bought his first car, he asked me to try it out with him. That was the year that the first "seedling" mile of concrete paving was laid down in Linn County. It was on the way to Mt. Vernon, now Highway 30.



A marker on Mt. Vernon Road between Cedar Rapids and nearby Mt. Vernon commemorates the location of the seedling mile.

Then followed canoe trips on the river, visits to my farm home, and while I was in summer school at Ames, he sent me one of his early paintings, done in Paris titled, *Basket Willows of Paris*. Later he developed a different style of painting which brought him fame.



Grant Wood Self-portrait, by Grant Wood, 1932, Figge Art Museum (left); Basket Willows of Paris, by Grant Wood, 1920, The History Center, Linn County Historical Society (right)

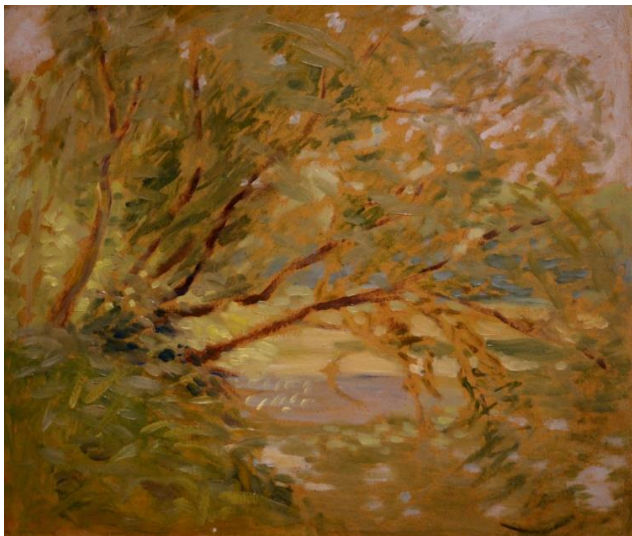
Comment: Esther taught at Polk School for the 1918-19 and 1919-20 school years, and then started at Jackson School in the fall of 1920. Grant Wood taught at Jackson School for the 1919-1920 and 1920-1921 school years. His first trip to Paris was in the summer of 1920. They met when both were teaching at Jackson School. He sent her Basket Willows of Paris in the summer of 1921 when Esther attended summer school in Ames.

Esther donated the painting to Kingston Hill, a retirement home for older women in Cedar Rapids where she lived for the last several years of her life. After Kingston Hill closed, Aging Services, Inc., which had merged with Kingston Hill shortly before it closed, donated the painting to The History Center, Linn County Historical Society, in Cedar Rapids. Aging Services reported that it depicts Indian Creek, which is on the southeast side of Cedar Rapids, with a hay field in the background and more trees on the horizon. The trees along the creek resemble basket willows.



Kingston Hill

Wood painted a different version entitled Basket Willows (Leaning Trees over Indian Creek), below, believed to have also been painted in 1920 in Paris. Harriet Y. and John B. Turner II donated this version to the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. At about this time, Wood created a series of paintings called Indian Creek. In November 1920, the Art Association exhibited 31 of Wood's oil paintings, including one called Basket Willows. It is not known if it was one of these two paintings or yet another version.



Basket Willows (Leaning Trees over Indian Creek), by Grant Wood, 1920, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

At this same time in the spring of 1921, I met Duncan Wasson of Onslow who was visiting his sister, Mrs. Harb Orr. A few months of ardent courtship followed, resulting in an elopement to Galena, Ill. We were married in the parsonage of a Lutheran minister on Oct. 6, 1921. I continued to live at home, finish the year of teaching at Jackson School, and went to live on the farm at Onslow, which D.J. had inherited, in part, from his aunt.



Esther's wedding photo in 1921

Comment: Duncan had been living in Cedar Rapids with his sister Jessie and her husband Harbison Orr for a while before he and Esther met. Their home was just down the street – 23rd (Wilson) Avenue – from the Gensicke “retirement residence” where Esther lived.

The Memorial Meditation at Esther's funeral quoted an overlapping account of her time with Grant Wood and Duncan Wasson, which provides more details:

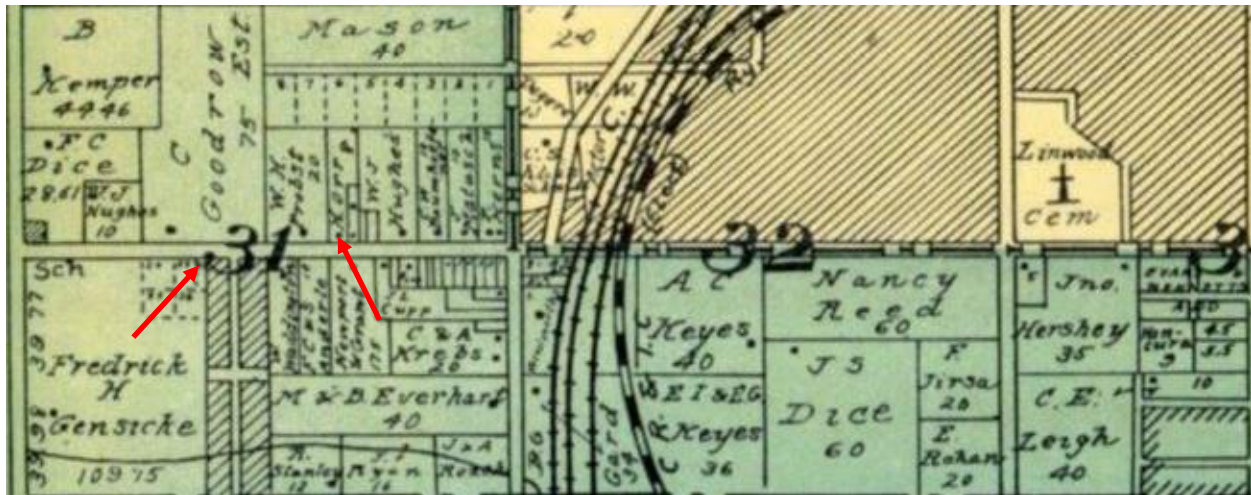
After my first year of teaching, while attending summer school in Ames, Grant sent me the painting Basket Willows. I think he might have proposed if he had not had the responsibility of supporting his mother on a limited income. But, in the meantime, I was pursued at Ames by a more ardent suitor, Duncan Wasson of Onslow, who proposed marriage with a large diamond ring. We married soon after and I lost contact with Grant.

As a young man, Duncan had purchased for himself a gold ring with a large diamond. When he proposed to Esther, he had the diamond removed from his ring and used to create Esther's engagement ring. Before she died, she asked that her engagement ring be given to one of her granddaughters.

After Duncan and Esther retired from farming and moved to Cedar Rapids, Duncan bought himself a new gold ring with a large diamond. After he died, the ring was given to Duncan and Esther's son Walter. When Walter died, the ring was given to their son Glenn. But Glenn had some sort of skin reaction to the ring and couldn't wear it, so he gave the ring to their son Boyd.



Duncan Wasson in 1918



The 1921 plat map of Rapids Township and the southwest corner of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa shows the Frederick Gensicke retirement residence location where Esther lived and the Harb Orr property where Duncan lived in Section 31 along 23rd (Wilson) Avenue. It also shows Linwood Cemetery in Section 33, where Esther's parents were buried, as were Duncan's mother, Carrie Sawyer Wasson Miller, and grandmother, Ellen McNeil Sawyer.



St. Matthews Lutheran Church and Parsonage, Galena, Illinois, where Duncan and Esther were married

Duncan J. Wasson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.	Miss Esther Gensicke Cedar Rapids, Iowa.	October 6 1921	B. B. Billings 3 Lilie Pagels	7 365
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Duncan and Esther's marriage was recorded in the logs of the St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Galena, Illinois.



Duncan and Esther lived on this farm east of Onslow, Jones County, Iowa, from 1922 to 1958.

Comment: Duncan was owner of his Aunt Jeannette Sim's farm by 1910, four years before she died, but I have not turned up anything to indicate whether he bought it from her or if it had been a gift. Duncan and his father bought much of her property in town in 1912. In 1914, Jeannette gave Duncan her house and its property in town shortly before she died.

Then followed the birth of three sons in quick succession, Walter in 1923, Douglas in 1924, and Glenn in 1927. Douglas died on Jan. 5, 1930 as a result of pneumonia from measles, from which Walter and Glenn recovered.

Years of Depression followed, with a series of bad luck – our barn burned along with our horses (before tractors they were the power of the farm), drought and crop failures. It took a hardy soul to farm in those days! Boyd Warner was born in the year 1936, always remembered for the hottest summer and coldest winter in recent history.

There is much more that could be added to this story, but I will leave the more recent memories for others to tell.

Comment: The Great Depression was even rougher on the family than Esther described. Her father died just a month before her son Douglas died, compounding her grief at that time. During the worst years of the Depression, the family was threatened with the forced sale of the farm because of overdue taxes.

But things turned around. Duncan and Esther were active in their community, and the local newspapers had numerous accounts of their gatherings with friends, often to play bridge, or their times spent with relatives. Walter, Glenn and Boyd all did well in school, each graduating as valedictorian of his class, and all three went on to college. In 1946, Duncan and Esther replaced their old farm house with a newly built modern home.

Duncan and Esther sold the farm in 1958. They retired to a house on Ellis Boulevard in Cedar Rapids, where her brother Henry Gensicke and his wife Lillian became their neighbors. They acquired and managed a handful of rental properties in their neighborhood.

Duncan and Esther also had eight grandchildren.

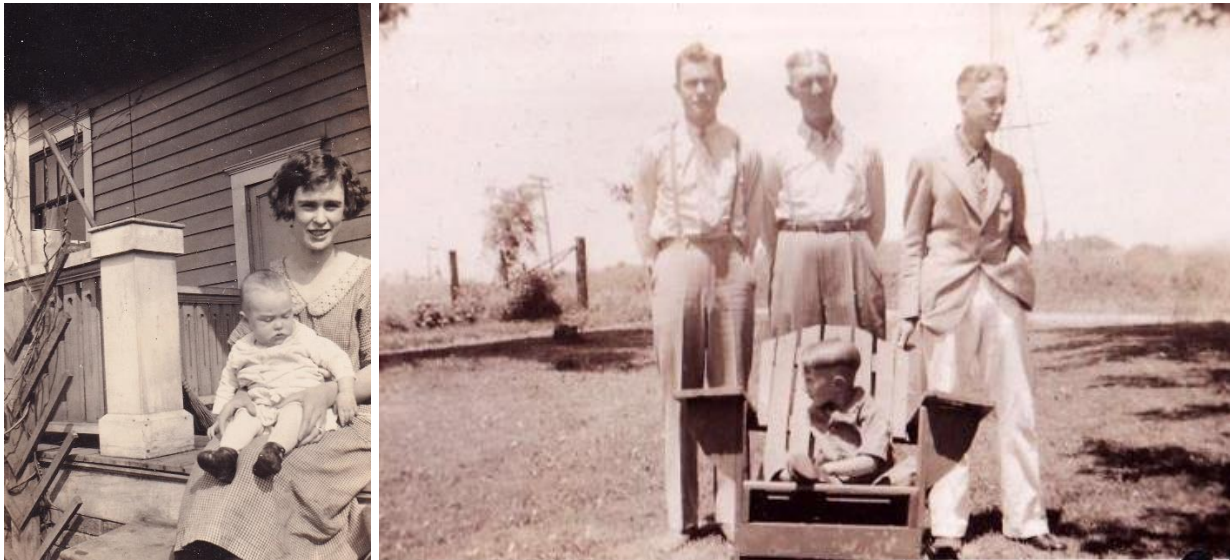
Duncan died in 1968. Esther remained in their Cedar Rapids home until 1986, when she moved into Kingston Hill. She lived there until she passed away in 1995.



Esther, Glenn, Douglas, Walter and Duncan at the 23rd (Wilson) Avenue house, about 1927



Boyd at about age 9-10 (left), and Glenn and Walter (right) in front of the original farmhouse



Esther with Douglas (left); Walter, Duncan, Glenn and Boyd (seated)



Esther behind the wheel (left); Esther and other members of Onslow's Altrurian Club (right)



Duncan and Esther's home at 1343 Ellis Boulevard, Cedar Rapids. Like most houses in the Time Check neighborhood of Cedar Rapids, this house was severely damaged in the 2008 Cedar Rapids flood and was torn down soon after.



Duncan and Esther were buried in the Wasson family plot in the Wyoming Cemetery in Jones County, Iowa.



Esther Elizabeth Valentina Gensicke Wasson, February 14, 1900 – December 13, 1995

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
Last updated September 21, 2023